



May 18, 2015

Dear Fellow Tiverton Resident:

As a resident of Tiverton, I too, am concerned about properly disposing of wastewater in the Town in order to safeguard public health. That is why I got involved with the Tiverton Wastewater Management Commission (TWMC) in 2007. As an engineer, with more than 40 years experience in the environmental field, I thought I could use my knowledge to help the community. Over the years, there have been many changes to the industry. New regulations by the state aimed at the elimination of cesspools was enacted. Many onsite wastewater systems have failed and need to be replaced. There are new technologies available to treat wastewater to meet today's more stringent requirements. Finally, there is also more knowledge on how on-site wastewater treatment systems can negatively impact ground water and surface water.

Approximately two years ago, the TWMC hired a consultant to update the Wastewater Facilities Plan for Tiverton. The plan determined that providing sewers for certain areas of Tiverton would be the best way to manage wastewater disposal. It was deemed the most cost effective and environmentally friendly solution because of the Tiverton's challenging soil conditions and the community's proximity to coastal watershed areas.

In order to qualify for grants and low interest loans to build sewers in Tiverton, a separate quasi-municipality had to be formed. In July 2014, legislation was passed by the Rhode Island Legislature and signed by the Governor to form the Tiverton Wastewater District (TWWD). The District boundaries encompass the northwest side of Tiverton. Through an agreement with the Town, the TWWD also oversees onsite wastewater management for the entire town.

In 2014, the TWWD applied for, and was awarded, a \$7.1 million grant/loan package by the USDA to provide sewers for defined high priority areas in the Facilities Plan. The package is comprised of 44% grant funding and 56% loan financing. It makes providing sewers a very cost effective alternative to conventional and innovative/alternative septic systems.

We think it is very important that people have a say in how they handle wastewater issues. We are asking people to vote, by neighborhood, on whether or not they want sewers. A voting process will begin on May 29th and end on June 12th.

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We believe it is in the interest of the residents to vote YES for sewers for the following reasons:

- It is less expensive than most other types of systems because of the grants that we have obtained from the USDA, especially for problem areas near the water.
- It is less disruptive to the property and involves less equipment protruding through the soil. You can have your property look the way you want it to look without unsightly equipment.
- TWWD will be responsible for the financing. No upfront cash is needed from the homeowner. Property owners pay a bill similar to other utilities such as electric and telephone.
- It is best for the environment. Even the best on-site system still puts unwanted nutrients into the ground and waterbody. Too much nitrogen in the waterbody can cause an overgrowth of algae and other plants. Over time, the plants will deplete the oxygen levels in the water which can trigger fish kills and depletion of other aquatic life.
- Sewer prevents fecal matter from getting into the water body from failed systems. No one wants to fish, swim, or boat in water that has sewage in it.
- All wastewater will be treated at the Fall River Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant which discharges highly treated water back into the water body.
- It will be owned and maintained by the TWWD so there are no hassles to the homeowner.
- It may enhance the resale value of the property for some buyers.

I hope that you will see providing sewers for your neighborhood as a good thing for you, your neighbors, and the environment. The TWWD is pleased to offer the program to the residents for the enhancement of our community.

Sincerely,



Leroy E. Kendricks, P.E.
Chair, Tiverton Wastewater District